

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into Ecosystem Decline in Victoria

Mr Dave Archer  
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**SUBMISSION CONTENT:**

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Hi, thank you for allowing public submissions to this crucially import enquiry. I feel like I can be a small voice for all those endangered critters and majestic trees that are hundreds of years old but have no say.

We are living in the most cleared state in the country with the worst mammal extinction rate in the world. Enough is enough.

Add to the deliberate destruction of our fauna and flora through logging and land clearing, the collateral damage that occurs through our lack of action on climate change (as we just experienced most vividly with the 2019/2020 bushfires) and you have a state where the flora and fauna are in a death spiral to oblivion.

What can we do?

First, a rapid but just transition out of native forest logging. Not starting in 2024, not ending in 2030 but starting now and ending in the next 12-24 months.

This won't just save many of of our threatened species from extinction directly but will help to mitigate climate change which will also save many critters (and plants) in the longer term.

More money needs to be spent. Firstly on regulation by our forest defenders (DWELP & PV) but also National Parks in general, which are seriously underfunded and need more staff and resources to pursue feral animal control, weed removal and the science around retaining/reinstating biodiversity values.

As mentioned we need regulation enforcement to be boosted but those regulations also need to be strengthened, broadened and penalties massively increased.

There is so much to be done and so little time, I really hope the findings of this commission are robust and reflect the dire position our precious flora and fauna are in and the once in a generation opportunity we have right now to start the recovery process.

Thank you for allowing me to have my say.

Regards

Dave Archer